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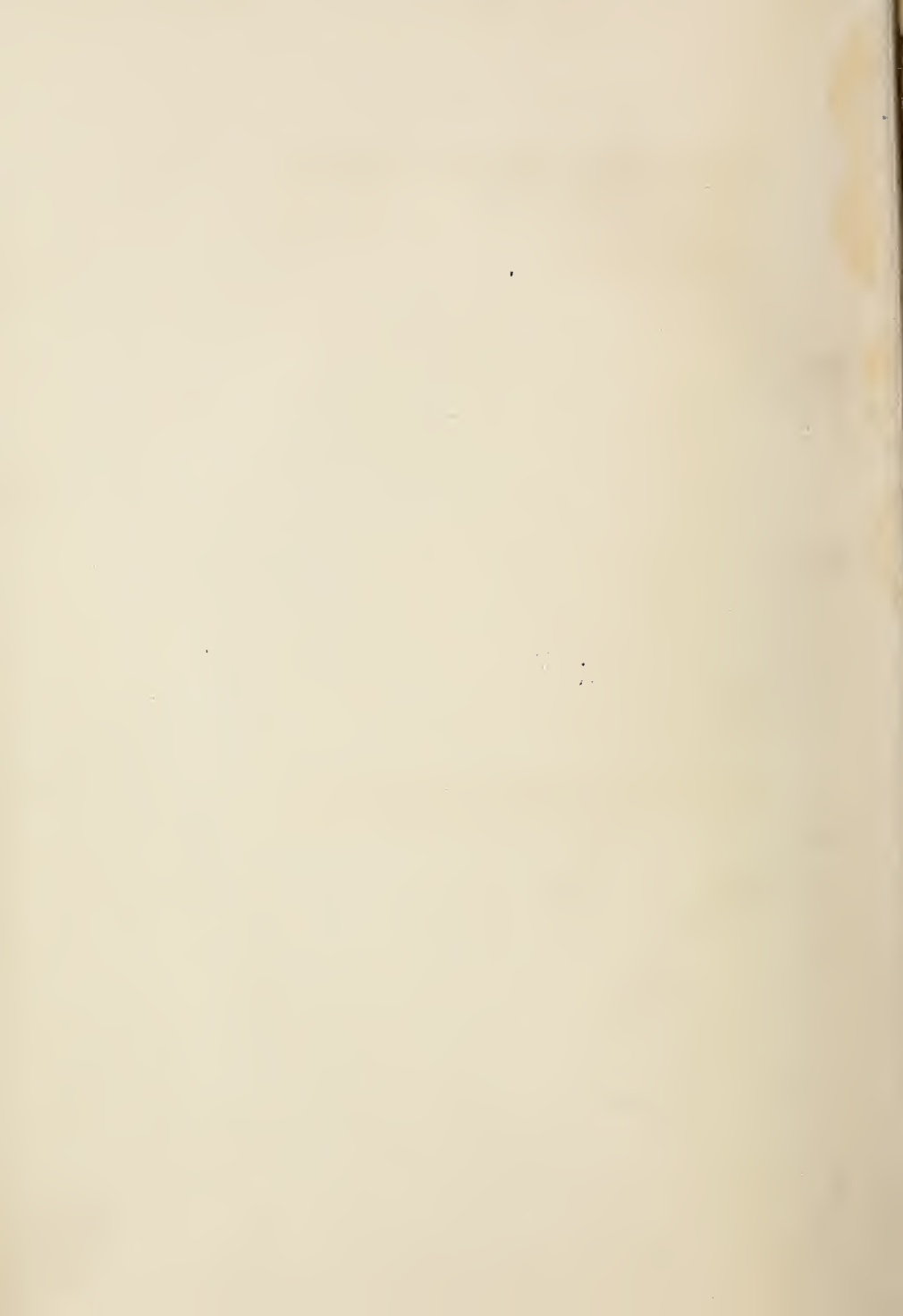


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THE BOOK OF RUTH AND THE BOOK OF ESTHER

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THE BOOK OF RUTH



CHAPTER I. ✠ Elimelech driven by famine into Moab, dieth. His two sons marry wives of Moab, and die also. ✠ Naomi returning homeward, dissuadeth her two daughters in law from going with her. ✠ Orpah leaveth her, but Ruth cleaveth unto her. They two come to Beth-lehem.

THE BOOK OF RUTH



AND IT CAME TO
PASS in the DAYS
WHEN THE JUD-
GES JUDGED, that
THERE was a FAM-
INE in THE LAND.
AND A CERTAIN
MAN of BETH-LEHEM-JUDAH
WENT TO SOJOURN IN THE
COUNTRY OF MOAB, HE, AND
HIS WIFE, AND HIS TWO SONS.
AND THE NAME OF THE MAN
WAS ELIMELECH, AND THE
NAME OF HIS WIFE NAOMI,
AND THE NAME OF HIS TWO
SONS MAHLON AND CHILION,
EPHRATHITES OF BETH-LE-
HEM-JUDAH. AND THEY CAME
INTO THE COUNTRY OF MOAB,
AND CONTINUED THERE. AND

Elimelech Naomi's husband died; and she was left, and her two sons. ¶ And they took them wives of the women of Moab; the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth: & they dwelled there about ten years. And Mahlon and Chilion died both of them; and the woman was left of her two children and of her husband. ¶ Then she arose with her daughters in law, that she might return from the country of Moab: for she had heard in the country of Moab how that the Lord had visited his people in giving them bread. ¶ And she went forth out of the place where she was, & her two daughters in law with her; and they went on the way to return unto the land of Judah. ¶ And Naomi said unto her two daughters in law, Go, retorneach of you to her mother's house: the Lord deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, & with me. The Lord

grant you that ye may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband. Then she kissed them; and they lifted up their voice, and wept. ¶ And they said unto her, Nay, but we will return with thee unto thy people. And Naomi said, Turn again, my daughters: why will ye go with me? have I yet sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands? Turn again, my daughters, go your way; for I am too old to have an husband. If I should say, I have hope, if I should even have an husband to-night, and should also bear sons; would ye therefore tarry till they were grown? would ye therefore stay from having husbands? nay, my daughters; for it grieveth me much for your sakes, for the hand of the Lord is gone forth against me. ¶ And they lifted up their voice, & wept again: & Orpah kissed her mother in law; but Ruth clave unto her. And she said, Behold, thy

sister in law is gone back unto her people, and unto her god: return thou after thy sister in law. ¶ And Ruth said, ¶ Intreat me not to leave thee, and to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; & where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, & thy God my God: where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more also, if aught but death part thee & me. ¶ And when she saw that she was stedfastly minded to go with her, she left speaking unto her. So they two went until they came to Beth-lehem. ¶ And it came to pass, when they were come to Beth-lehem, that all the city was moved about them, and the women said, Is this Naomi? ¶ ¶ And she said unto them, Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me. I went out full, & the Lord

hath brought me home again empty: ¶ why call ye me Naomi, seeing the Lord hath testified against me, and the Almighty hath afflicted me? ¶ So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter in law, with her, which returned out of the country of Moab: and they came to Beth-lehem in the beginning of barley harvest.

CHAPTER II. ✠ Ruth gleaneth in the
fields of Boaz. ✠ Boaz inquireth con-
cerning her, & sheweth her great favour
✠ That which she gleaneth she carrieth
to Naomi.

AND Naomi had a kinsman
of her husband's, a mighty
man of wealth, of the fam-
ily of Elimelech; and his
name was Boaz. And Ruth
the Moabiteſſe ſaid unto Naomi, Let me
now go to the field, and glean among the
ears of corn after him in whoſe ſight I
ſhall find grace. And ſhe ſaid unto
her, Go, my daughter. And ſhe went, and
came and gleaned in the field after the
reapers: and her hap was to light on the
portion of the field belonging unto Bo-
az, who was of the family of Elimelech.
And, behold, Boaz came from Beth-le-
hem, and ſaid unto the reapers, The
Lord be with you. And they answered
him, The Lord bleſs thee. Then ſaid
Boaz unto his ſervant that was ſet over
the reapers, Whoſe damſel is this? &
the ſervant that was ſet over the reap-
ers answered and ſaid, It is the Moabi-

tish damsel that came back with Naomi out of the country of Moab: & she said, Let me glean, I pray you, and gather after the reapers among the sheaves: so she came, and hath continued even from the morning until now, save that she tarried a little in the house. ¶ Then said Boaz unto Ruth, Hearest thou not, my daughter? ¶ Go not to glean in another field, neither pass from hence, but abide here fast by my maidens. ¶ Let thine eyes be on the field that they do reap, & go thou after them: have I not charged the young men that they shall not touch thee? & when thou art athirst, go unto the vessels, & drink of that which the young men have drawn. ¶ Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, & said unto him, Why have I found grace in thy sight, that thou shouldest take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger? ¶ & Boaz answered &

said unto her, It hath fully been shewed me, all that thou hast done unto thy mother in law since the death of thine husband: and how thou hast left thy father and thy mother, and the land of thy nativity, & art come unto a people which thou knewest not heretofore. ¶ The Lord recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to take refuge. ¶ Then she said, Let me find grace in thy sight, my lord; for that thou hast comforted me, & for that thou hast spoken kindly unto thine handmaid, though I be not as one of thine handmaidens. ¶ & at meal-time Boaz said unto her, Come hither, & eat of the bread, & dip thy morsel in the vinegar. ¶ & she sat beside the reapers: and they reached her parched corn, & she did eat, & was sufficed, and left thereof. ¶ & when she was risen up to

glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, ¶ Let her glean even among the sheaves, and reproach her not. ¶ & also pull out some for her from the bundles, & leave it, & let her glean, & rebuke her not. ¶ So she gleaned in the field until even; & she beat out that she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley. ¶ And she took it up, and went into the city: & her mother in law saw what she had gleaned: and she brought forth and gave to her that she had left after she was sufficed. ¶ And her mother in law said unto her, Where hast thou gleaned to-day? ¶ and where wroughtest thou? blessed be he that did take knowledge of thee. And she shewed her mother in law with whom she had wrought, and said, The man's name with whom I wrought to-day is Boaz. ¶ And Naomi said unto her daughter in law, Blessed be he of the Lord, who hath not left off his kind-

ness to the living & to the dead. And Naomi said unto her, The man is nigh of kin unto us, one of our near kinsmen. ¶ And Ruth the Moabitess said, Yea, he said unto me, Thou shalt keep fast by my young men, until they have ended all my harvest. ¶ And Naomi said unto Ruth her daughter in law, It is good, my daughter, that thou go out with his maidens, and that they meet thee not in any other field. ¶ So she kept fast by the maidens of Boaz to glean unto the end of barley harvest and of wheat harvest; and she dwelt with her mother in law.

CHAPTER III. ✠ By Naomi's instruction, ✠ Ruth lieth down at the feet of Boaz. ✠ He acknowledgeth the duty of a kinsman. ✠ and sendeth her away with six measures of barley.

AND Naomi her mother in law said unto her, ¶ My daughter, shall I not seek rest for thee, that it may be well with thee? ¶ And now is there not Boaz our kinsman, with whose maidens thou wast? ¶ Behold, he winnoweth barley to-night in the threshing-floor. ¶ Wash thyself therefore, & annoint thee, & put thy raiment upon thee, & get thee down to the threshing-floor: but make not thyself known unto the man, until he shall have done eating & drinking. ¶ & it shall be, when he lieth down, that thou shalt mark the place where he shall lie, and thou shalt go in, and uncover his feet, and lay thee down; and he will tell thee what thou shalt do. ¶ And she said unto her, All that thou sayest I will do. ¶ And she went down unto the threshing-floor, & did according to all that her mother in

law bade her. ¶ And when Boaz had eaten & drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of corn: and she came softly, and uncovered his feet, and laid her down. ¶ And it came to pass at midnight, that the man was afraid, and turned himself: and, behold, a woman lay at his feet. ¶ And he said, Who art thou? & she answered, I am Ruth thine handmaid: spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid; for thou art a near kinsman. ¶ And he said, Blessed be thou of the Lord, my daughter: thou hast shewed more kindness in the latter end than at the beginning, inasmuch as thou followedst not young men, whether poor or rich. ¶ And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou sayest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman. ¶ And now it is true that I am a near kinsman: ¶ howbeit there

is a kinsman nearer than I. ¶ Carry this night, & it shall be in the morning, that if he will perform unto thee the part of a kinsman, well; let him do the kinsman's part: but if he will not do the part of a kinsman to thee, then will I do the part of a kinsman to thee, as the Lord liveth: lie down until the morning. And she lay at his feet until the morning: & she rose up before one could discern another. ¶ For he said, Let it not be known that the woman came to the threshing-floor. ¶ And he said, Bring the mantle that is upon thee, and hold it; & she held it: and he measured six measures of barley, & laid it on her: and he went into the city. And when she came to her mother in law, she said, ¶ Who art thou, my daughter? And she told her all that the man had done to her. ¶ And she said, These six measures of barley gave he me; for he said, Go not empty unto thy

mother in law. Then said she, Sit still,
my daughter, until thou know how the
matter will fall: for the man will not
rest, until he have finished the thing
this day.

CHAPTER IV. ✠ Boaz calleth the
next kinsman before the elders; ✠ but
he refuseth to redeem the inheritance of
Elimelech according to the manner in
Israel. ✠ Boaz buyeth it. ✠ He marrieth
Ruth. ✠ She beareth Obed the grand-
father of David. ✠ The generations of
Pharez.



NOW Boaz went up to the gate, & sat him down there: & behold, the near kinsman of whom Boaz spake came by; unto whom he said, Ho, such a one! turn aside, sit down here. And he turned aside, & sat down. ¶ And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, Sit ye down here. ¶ And they sat down. & he said unto the near kinsman, Naomi, that is come again out of the country of Moab, selleth the parcel of land, which was our brother Elimelech's: and I thought to disclose it unto thee, saying, Buy it before them that sit here, and before the elders of my people. If thou wilt redeem it, redeem it: but if thou wilt not redeem it, then tell me, that I may know: for there is none to redeem it besides thee; & I am after thee. And he said, I will redeem it. ¶ Then said Boaz, ¶ What day thou buyest the

field of the hand of Naomi, thou must buy it also of Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance. ¶ And the near kinsman said, I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I mar mine own inheritance: take thou my right of redemption on thee; for I cannot redeem it. Now this was the custom in former time in Israel concerning redeeming and concerning exchanging, for to confirm all things; a man drew off his shoe, & gave it to his neighbour: and this was the manner of attestation in Israel. So the near kinsman said unto Boaz, Buy it for thyself. And he drew off his shoe. ¶ And Boaz said unto the elders, & unto all the people, Ye are witnesses this day, that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's & Mahlon's, of the hand of Naomi. ¶ Moreover Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, have

I purchased to be my wife, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance, that the name of the dead be not cut off from among his brethren, & from the gate of his place: ye are witnesses this day. And all the people that were in the gate, & the elders, said, We are witnesses. ¶ The Lord make the woman that is come into thine house like Rachel & like Leah, which two did build the house of Israel: and do thou worthily in Ephrathah, and be famous in Beth-lehem: and let thy house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bare unto Judah, of the seed which the Lord shall give thee of this young woman. So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife; and he went in unto her, and the Lord gave her conception, & she bare a son. ¶ And the women said unto Naomi, Blessed be the Lord, which hath not left thee this day without a near kinsman, and let his name be

famous in Israel, ¶ And he shall be unto thee a restorer of life, & a nourisher of thine old age; ¶ for thy daughter in law, which loveth thee, which is better to thee than seven sons, hath borne him. And Naomi took the child, and laid it in her bosom, and became nurse unto it. ¶ And the women her neighbours gave it a name, saying, There is a son born to Naomi; and they called his name Obed: he is the father of Jesse, the father of David. ¶ Now these are the generations of Perez: Perez begat Hezron; and Hezron begat Ram, & Ram begat Amminadab; & Amminadab begat Nahshon, & Nahshon begat Salmon; and Salmon begat Boaz, & Boaz begat Obed; & Obed begat Jesse, and Jesse begat David.

THE BOOK OF ESTHER

CHAPTER I. ✠ Ahasuerus maketh a
feast. ✠ He sendeth for Vashti, ✠ who
refuseth to come. ✠ The king is coun-
selled to put her away. ✠ His decree.

THE BOOK OF ESTHER



WHEN it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus, (this is Ahasuerus which reigned, & from India even unto Ethiopia, over an hundred and seven and twenty provinces:) & that in those days, when the king Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom, which was in Shushan the palace, & in the third year of his reign, he made a feast unto all his princes and his servants; the power of Persia and Media, the nobles & princes of the provinces, being before him: when he shewed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the honour of his excellent majesty many days, even an hundred and fourscore days. & And when these days were fulfilled, the king made a feast unto all

the people that were present in Shushan the palace, both great and small, seven days, in the court of the garden of the king's palace; ¶ there were hangings of white cloth, of green, and of blue, fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rings and pillars of marble: the couches were of gold and silver, upon a pavement of red, & white, & yellow, and black marble. ¶ And they gave them drink in vessels of gold, (the vessels being diverse one from another,) & royal wine in abundance, ¶ according to the bounty of the king. ¶ And the drinking was according to the law; none could compel: ¶ for so the king had appointed to all the officers of his house, ¶ that they should do according to every man's pleasure. ¶ Also Vashti the queen made a feast for the women in the royal house which belonged to king Ahasuerus. ¶ On the seventh day, ¶ when the heart of

the king was merry with wine, he com-
 manded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, &
 Bigtha, and Abagtha, Zethar, & Carcas,
 the seven chamberlains that ministered
 in the presence of Ahasuerus the king,
 to bring Vashti the queen before the king
 with the crown royal, to shew the peo-
 ples and the princes her beauty: & for
 she was fair to look on. & But the queen
 Vashti refused to come & at the king's
 commandment by the chamberlains: &
 therefore was the king very wroth, and
 his anger burned in him. & Then the king
 said to the wise men, which knew the
 times, & (for so was the king's manner
 toward all that knew law & judgement;
 and the next unto him was Carshena,
 Shethar, Admatha, & Tarshish, Meres,
 Marsena, & Memucan, the seven princes
 of Persia and Media, & which saw the
 king's face, & sat first in the kingdom:)
 What shall we do unto the queen Vashti

according to law, ¶ because she hath not done the bidding of the king Ahasuerus by the chamberlains? ¶ And Memucan answered before the king & the princes, Vashti the queen hath not done wrong to the king only, but also to all the princes, & to all the peoples that are in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus. ¶ For this deed of the queen shall come abroad unto all women, ¶ to make their husbands contemptible in their eyes, when it shall be reported. ¶ The king Ahasuerus commanded Vashti the queen to be brought in before him, ¶ but she came not. ¶ And this day shall the princesses of Persia and Media which have heard of the deed of the queen say the like unto all the king's princes. ¶ So shall there arise much contempt & wrath. ¶ If it please the king, let there go forth a royal commandment from him, and let it be written among the laws of the ¶ Pers-

ians & the Medes, that it be not altered, that Vashti come no more before king Ahasuerus; & let the king give her royal estate unto another that is better than she. ¶ & when the king's decree which he shall make shall be published throughout all his kingdom, (for it is great,) all the wives shall give to their husbands honour, both to great and small. ¶ And the saying pleased the king & the princes; & the king did according to the word of Memucan: ¶ for he sent letters into all the king's provinces, into every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language, that every man should bear rule in his own house, ¶ and should publish it according to the language of his people. ¶

CHAPTER II. ♀ A queen to be chosen
instead of Vashti. ♀ Esther is preferred.
♀ She is made queen. ♀ Mordecai's
service to the king recorded.

AFTER these things, when the wrath of king Ahasuerus was pacified, he remembered Vashti, and what she had done, and what was decreed against her. ¶ Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, Let there be fair young virgins sought for the king: ¶ and let the king appoint officers in all the provinces ¶ of his kingdom, that they may gather together all the fair young virgins unto Shushan the palace, to the house of the women, unto the custody of Hegai, ¶ the king's chamberlain, keeper of the women; ¶ and let their things, ¶ for purification be given them: ¶ & let the maiden which pleaseth the king be queen instead of Vashti. ¶ And the thing pleased the king; & he did so. ¶ There was a certain Jew in Shus-

han the palace, whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite; ¶ who had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captives which had been carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom, ¶ Nebuchadnezzar the ¶ king of Babylon had carried away. ¶ ¶ And he brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter: for she had neither father nor mother, and the maiden was fair and beautiful; and when her father and mother were dead, Mordecai took her for his own daughter. ¶ So it came to pass, when the king's commandment and his decree was heard, ¶ and when many maidens were gathered together unto Shushan the palace, to the custody of Hegai, ¶ that Esther was taken into the king's house, to the custody of Hegai, ¶ keeper of the women. ¶ And the maiden pleased him, ¶ and she obtained

kindness of him; and he speedily gave her her things for purification, with her portions, and the seven maidens, which were meet to be given her, out of the king's house: and he removed her and her maidens to the best place of the house of the women. Esther had not shewed her people nor her kindred: for Mordecai had charged her that she should not shew it. & Mordecai walked every day before the court of the women's house, to know how Esther did, and what should become of her. Now when the turn of every maiden was come to go in to king Ahasuerus, after that it had been done to her according to the law for the women, twelve months, (for so were the days of their purifications accomplished, to wit, six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with sweet odours, and with the things for the purifying of the women,) then in

this wise came the maiden unto the king, whatsoever she desired was given her to go with her out of the house of the women unto the king's house. ¶ In the evening she went, ¶ and on the morrow she returned into the second house of the women, ¶ to the custody of Shaash-gaz, the king's chamberlain, which kept the concubines: ¶ she came in unto the king no more, except the king delighted in her, and that she were called by name. ¶ Now when the turn of Esther, ¶ the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, was come to go in unto the king, ¶ she required nothing ¶ but what Hegai the king's chamberlain, ¶ the keeper of the women, appointed. ¶ & Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her. ¶ So Esther was taken unto king Ahasuerus into his house royal in the tenth month, which is the month

Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign. And the king loved Esther above all the women, & she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head, & made her queen instead of Vashti. ¶ Then the king made a great feast unto all his princes and his servants, ¶ even Esther's feast; and he made a release to the provinces, and gave gifts, according to the bounty of the king. ¶ And when the virgins were gathered together the second time, ¶ then Mordecai sat in the king's gate. ¶ Esther had not yet shewed her kindred nor her people; as Mordecai had charged her: for Esther did the commandment of Mordecai, like as when she was brought up with him. ¶ In those days, while Mordecai sat in the king's gate, ¶ two of the king's chamberlains, Bigthan & Teresh, of those which kept the door, were wroth, and sought to lay

hands on the king Ahasuerus. ¶ And the thing was known to Mordecai, ¶ who shewed it unto Esther the queen; ¶ and Esther told the king thereof in Mordecai's name. ¶ And when inquisition was made of the matter, & it was found to be so, they were both hanged on a tree: and it was written ¶ in the book of the chronicles before the king.

CHAPTER III. ✠ Haman's promotion. Mordecai refuseth to do him reverence. ✠ Haman seeketh revenge. ✠ He obtaineth a decree of the king to destroy the Jews.



AFTER these things did king
Ahasuerus promote Ham-
an the son of Hammedatha
the Agagite, and advanced
him, and set his seat above
all the princes that were with him. ¶ &
all the king's servants, that were in the
king's gate, bowed down, and did rever-
ence to Haman: for the king had so com-
manded concerning him. But Mordecai
bowed not down, nor did him reverence.
Then the king's servants, that were in
the king's gate, said unto Mordecai,
Why transgressest thou the king's com-
mandment? Now it came to pass, when
they spake daily unto him, and he heark-
ened not unto them, that they told Ha-
man, to see whether Mordecai's matters
would stand: for he had told them that
he was a Jew. ¶ And when Haman saw
that Mordecai bowed not down, nor did
him reverence, then was Haman full of

wrath. ¶ But he thought scorn to lay hands on Mordecai alone; for they had shewed him the people of Mordecai: wherefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews that were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, even the people of Mordecai. In the first month, which is the month Nisan, in the twelfth year of king Ahasuerus, they cast Pur, that is, the lot, before Haman from day to day, and from month to month, to the twelfth month, which is the month Adar. ¶ & Haman said unto king Ahasuerus, There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of thy kingdom; & their laws are diverse from those of every people; neither keep they the king's laws: therefore it is not for the king's profit to suffer them. ¶ If it please the king, let it be written that they be destroyed: & I will pay ten thousand tal-

ents of silver into the hands of those that have the charge of the king's business, to bring it into the king's treasures. ¶ & the king took his ring from his hand, and gave it unto Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the Jews' enemy. ¶ & the king said unto Haman, The silver is given to thee, the people also, to do with them as it seemeth good to thee. ¶ Then were the king's scribes called in the first month, on the thirteenth day thereof, & there was written according to all that Haman commanded unto the king's satraps, and to the governors that were over every province, & to the princes of every people; to every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language; in the name of king Ahasuerus was it written, & it was sealed with the king's ring. ¶ & letters were sent by posts into all the king's provinces, to

destroy, to slay, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young & old, little children and women, in one day, even upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, & to take the spoil of them for a prey. A copy of the writing, that the decree should be given out in every province, was published unto all the peoples, that they should be ready against that day. The posts went forth in haste by the king's commandment, & the decree was given out in Shushan the palace: and the king and Haman sat down to drink; but the city of Shushan was perplexed.

CHAPTER IV. ✠ The lamentation of
Mordecai & the Jews. ✠ Esther inquir-
eth the cause thereof. ✠ Mordecai
maketh it known to her, & urgeth her to
intercede with the king for her people. ✠
She consenteth, & appointeth a fast. ✠



NOW when Mordecai knew all that was done, Mordecai rent his clothes, and put on sackcloth with ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and cried with a loud & a bitter cry: and he came even before the king's gate: for none might enter within the king's gate clothed with sackcloth. & in every province, & whithersoever the king's commandment & his decree came, there was great mourning, & among the Jews, & fasting, & weeping, & wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes. & And Esther's maidens and her chamberlains came and told it her; & the queen was exceedingly grieved: & she sent raiment to clothe Mordecai, and to take his sackcloth from off him: & but he received it not. & Then called Esther for Hathach, one of the king's chamberlains, whom he had appointed to attend upon

her, and charged him to go to Mordecai, to know what this was, & why it was. So Hathach went forth to Mordecai unto the broad place of the city, & which was before the king's gate. And Mordecai told him, & of all that had happened unto him, & the exact sum of the money that Haman had promised to pay to the king's treasuries for the Jews, & to destroy them. Also he gave him the copy of the writing & of the decree that was given out in Shushan to destroy them, to shew it unto Esther, & to declare it unto her; & to charge her that she should go in unto the king, to make supplication unto him, & to make request before him, for her people. And Hathach came and told Esther the words of Mordecai. Then Esther spake unto Hathach, and gave him a message unto Mordecai, saying: & All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know,

that whosoever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law for him, that he be put to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days. And they told to Mordecai Esther's words. Then Mordecai bade them return answer unto Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews. for if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall relief and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place, but thou & thy father's house shall perish: and who knoweth whether thou art not come to the kingdom for such a time as this? Then Esther bade them return answer unto Mordecai, Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in

Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, & night or day: I also and my maidens will fast in like manner; & so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish. & So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him.

CHAPTER V. ✠ Esther, venturing to go to the king, obtaineth his favour, and inviteth the king & Haman to a banquet. ✠ She, being encouraged by the king, inviteth them to another banquet the next day. ✠ Haman repineth at the contempt of Mordecai. ✠ He buildeth a gallows for him. ✠

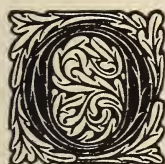
NOW it came to pass on the third day, that Esther put on her royal apparel, and stood in the inner court of the king's house, & over against the king's house: & the king sat upon his royal throne in the royal house, over against the entrance of the house. & it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she obtained favour in his sight: & the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. & So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre. Then said the king unto her, What wilt thou, queen Esther? and what is thy request? it shall be given thee even to the half of the kingdom. & Esther said, If it seem good unto the king, let the king & Haman come this day unto the banquet that I have prepared for him. Then the king said, Cause Haman to make

haste, ¶ that it may be done as Esther hath said. So the king and Haman came to the banquet that Esther had prepared. ¶ And the king said unto Esther at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition? & it shall be granted thee: & what is thy request? ¶ even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed. ¶ Then answered Esther, and said, My petition and my request is: ¶ if I have found favour in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition, & to perform my request, let the king and Haman come to the banquet that I shall prepare for them, & I will do to-morrow as the king hath said. ¶ Then went Haman forth that day ¶ joyful and glad of heart: but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, that he stood not up nor moved for him, he was filled with wrath against Mordecai. ¶ Nevertheless Haman refrained himself, and went home; ¶

and he sent and fetched his friends and Zeresh his wife. ¶ And Haman recounted unto them the glory of his riches, and the multitude of his children, and all the things wherein the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the princes and servants of the king. ¶ Haman said moreover, Yea, Esther the queen did let no man come in with the king unto the banquet that she had prepared but myself; ¶ & to-morrow also am I invited by her together, ¶ with the king. ¶ Yet all this availeth me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate. Then said Zeresh his wife & all his friends unto him, Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high, & in the morning speak thou unto the king that Mordecai may be hanged thereon: ¶ then go thou in merrily with the king unto the banquet. And the thing pleased Haman; & he caused the gallows to be made.

CHAPTER VI. ✠ Ahasuerus, reading
in the chronicles of the good service done
by Mordecai, provideth for his reward.
✠ Haman, coming to ask that Mordecai
might be hanged, unawares giveth coun-
sel that he might do him honour. ✠ Com-
plaining of his misfortune, his friends
predict his fall. ✠



 N that night could not the king sleep; & he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles, and they were read, before the king. And it was found written, that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's chamberlains, of those that kept the door, who had sought to lay hands on the king Ahasuerus. And the king said, What honour and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this? Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, There is nothing done for him. And the king said, Who is in the court? Now Haman was come into the outward court of the king's house, to speak unto the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows, that he had prepared for him. And the king's servants said unto him, Behold, Haman standeth in the court. And the king said,

Let him come in. ¶ So Haman came in. And the king said unto him, What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour? ¶ Now Haman said in his heart, To whom would the king delight to do honour more than to myself? ¶ And Haman said unto the king, for the man whom the king delighteth to honour, let royal apparel be brought which the king useth to wear, ¶ and the horse that the king rideth upon, and on the head of which a crown royal is set: & let the apparel & the horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the man withal whom the king delighteth to honour, & cause him to ride on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him, ¶ Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honour. ¶ Then the king said to Haman, Make haste, & take the apparel

and the horse, as thou hast said, and do even so to Mordecai the Jew, that sitteth at the king's gate: let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken. Then took Haman the apparel and the horse, & arrayed Mordecai, & caused him to ride through the street of the city, and proclaimed before him, Thus shall it be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour. And Mordecai came again to the king's gate. But Haman hasted to his house, mourning & having his head covered. And Haman recounted unto Zeresh his wife & all his friends every thing that had befallen him. Then said his wise men and Zeresh his wife unto him, If Mordecai, before whom thou hast begun to fall, be of the seed of the Jews, thou shalt not prevail against him, but shalt surely fall before him. While they were yet talking with him, came the king's chamberlains, & hasted

to bring Haman unto the banquet that
Esther had prepared.

CHAPTER VII. ✽ Esther, entertain-
ing the king and Haman, pleadeth for her
own life & for that of her people. ✽ She
accuseth Haman. ✽ The king in his anger
commandeth Haman to be hanged on the
gallows made for Mordecai. ✽



O the king and Haman came to banquet with Esther the queen. ¶ And the king said again unto, ¶ Esther on the second day at the banquet of wine, ¶ What is thy petition, queen Esther? and it shall be granted thee: & what is thy request? ¶ Even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed. ¶ Then Esther the queen answered & said, ¶ If I have found favor in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request: ¶ for we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, ¶ to be slain, and to perish. But if we had been sold for bondmen and bondwomen, ¶ I had held my peace, although the adversary could not have compensated for the king's damage. ¶ Then spake the king Ahasuerus ¶ and said unto Esther the queen, Who is he, and where is he, that

durst presume in his heart to do so? ¶ And Esther said, An adversary and an enemy, even this wicked Haman. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen. ¶ And the king arose in his wrath from the banquet of wine, ¶ and went into the palace garden: and Haman stood up to make request for his life to Esther the queen; for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king. ¶ Then the king returned out of the palace garden into the place of the banquet of wine; ¶ and Haman was fallen upon the couch whereon Esther was. ¶ Then said the king, Will he even force the queen before me in the house? ¶ As the word went out of the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face. ¶ Then said Harbonah, one of the chamberlains that were before the king, ¶ Behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman hath made for Mordecai, ¶ who spake

good for the king, standeth in the house
of Haman. ¶ And the king said, Hang
him thereon. ¶ So they hanged Haman
on the gallows that he had prepared for
Mordecai. ¶ Then was the king's wrath
pacified.



CHAPTER VIII. ✠ Mordecai is promoted. ✠ Esther maketh suit to the king to reverse Haman's letters. ✠ Ahasuerus giveth the Jews permission to defend themselves. ✠ The honour shewed to Mordecai, and the joy of the Jews. ✠





N that day did the king Ahasuerus give the house of Haman the Jews' enemy unto Esther the queen. And Mordecai came before the king; for Esther had told what he was unto her. And the king took off his ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it unto Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman. And Esther spake yet again before the king, and fell down at his feet, and besought him with tears to put away the mischief of Haman the Agagite, & his device that he had devised against the Jews. Then the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre. So Esther arose, & stood before the king. & she said, If it please the king, and if I have found favour in his sight, and the thing seem right before the king, and I be pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to reverse

the letters devised by Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, & which he wrote to destroy the Jews which are in all the king's provinces: for how can I endure to see the evil that shall come unto my people? & or how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred? & Then the king Ahasuerus said unto Esther the queen and to Mordecai the Jew, Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and him they have hanged upon the gallows, because he laid his hand upon the Jews. & Write ye also to the Jews, as it liketh you, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's ring: for the writing which is written in the king's name, & sealed with the king's ring, may no man reverse. & Then were the king's scribes called at that time, in the third month, which is the month Sivan, on the three & twentieth day thereof; & it was written according to all that Mordecai

commanded unto the Jews, & to the satraps, & the governors & princes of the provinces which are from India unto Ethiopia, an hundred twenty & seven provinces, unto every province according to the writing thereof, & unto every people after their language, and to the Jews according to their writing, and according to their language. And he wrote in the name of king Ahasuerus, & sealed it with the king's ring, & sent letters by posts on horseback, & riding on swift steeds that were used in the king's service, bred of the stud: & wherein the king granted the Jews which were in every city to gather themselves together, and to stand for their life, & to destroy, to slay, and to cause to perish, all the power of the people and province that would assault them, their little ones & women, and to take the spoil of them for a prey, upon one day in all the provinces of king

Ahasuerus, namely, upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar. ¶ A copy of the writing, that the decree should be given out in every province, was published unto all the peoples, and that the Jews should be ready against that day to avenge themselves on their enemies. ¶ So the posts that rode upon swift steeds that were used in the king's service went out, being hastened & pressed on by the king's commandment; & the decree was given out in Shushan the palace. ¶ And Mordecai went forth from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue & white, and with a great crown of gold, & with a robe of fine linen and purple: and the city of Shushan shouted & was glad. ¶ The Jews had light & gladness, & joy & honour. ¶ And in every province, and in every city, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, the

Jews had gladness and joy, a feast and a good day. ¶ And many from among the peoples of the land became Jews; ¶ for the fear of the Jews was fallen upon them.

CHAPTER IX. The Jews (the rulers abetting) destroy their enemies. Ahasuerus, at the request of Esther, granteth another day of slaughter, & the destruction of Haman's sons. ¶ The festival of Purim established. ¶

NOW in the twelfth month,
which is the month Adar,
on the thirteenth day of the
same, when the king's com-
mandment and, & his decree
drew near to be put in execution, & in the
day that the enemies of the Jews hoped
to have rule over them; whereas it was
turned to the contrary, & that the Jews
had rule over them that hated them; &
the Jews gathered themselves together
in their cities throughout all the provin-
ces of the king Ahasuerus, to lay hand
on such as sought their hurt: & and no
man could withstand them; for the fear
of them was fallen upon all the peoples.
And all the princes of the provinces, &
the satraps, & the governors, and they
that did the king's business, helped the
Jews; because the fear of Mordecai was
fallen upon them. & for Mordecai was
great in the king's house, and his fame

went forth throughout all the provinces: for the man Mordecai waxed greater and greater. ¶ And the Jews smote all their enemies with the stroke of the sword, & with slaughter and destruction, and did what they would unto them that hated them. ¶ And in Shushan the palace the Jews slew and destroyed five hundred men. ¶ And Parshandatha, & Dalphon, and Aspatha, and Poratha, & Adalia, and Aridatha, and Parmashta, and Arisai, and Aridai, and Vaizatha, the ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Jew's enemy, slew they; but on the spoil they laid not their hand. ¶ On that day the number of those that were slain in Shushan the palace was brought before the king. ¶ And the king said unto Esther the queen, The Jews have slain and destroyed five hundred men in Shushan the palace, and the ten sons of Haman; ¶ what then have they

done in the rest of the king's provinces!
Now what is thy petition? and it shall
be granted thee: or what is thy request
further? & it shall be done. Then said
Esther, If it please the king, let it be
granted to the Jews which are in Shus-
han to do to-morrow also according
unto this day's decree, and let Haman's
ten sons be hanged upon the gallows.
And the king commanded it so to be
done: and a decree was given out in
Shushan; and they hanged Haman's ten
sons. And the Jews that were in Shus-
han gathered themselves together on the
fourteenth day also of the month Adar,
and slew three hundred men in Shus-
han; but on the spoil they laid not their
hand. And the other Jews that were
in the king's provinces gathered them-
selves together, & stood for their lives,
and had rest from their enemies, and
slew of them that hated them seventy &

five thousand; but on the spoil they laid not their hand. ¶ This was done on the thirteenth day of the month Adar; and on the fourteenth day of the same they rested, and made it a day of feasting & gladness. ¶ But the Jews that were in Shushan assembled together on the thirteenth day thereof, and on the fourteenth day thereof; and on the fifteenth day of the same they rested, and made it a day of feasting & gladness. ¶ Therefore do the Jews of the villages, ¶ that dwell in the unwalled towns, make the fourteenth day of the month Adar a day of gladness & feasting, and a good day, & of sending portions one to another. ¶ And Mordecai wrote these things, and sent letters unto all the Jews that were in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, both nigh and far, to enjoin them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar, & the fifteenth day

of the same, yearly, as the days wherein the Jews had rest from their enemies, and the month which was turned unto them from sorrow to gladness, & from mourning into a good day: ¶ that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, & of sending portions one to another, & gifts to the poor. ¶ And the Jews undertook to do as they had begun, and as Mordecai had written unto them; because Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had devised against the Jews to destroy them, and had cast Pur, that is, the lot, to consume them, and to destroy them; ¶ but when the matter came before the king, he commanded by letters that his wicked device, ¶ which he had devised against the Jews, should return upon his own head; and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows. ¶ Wherefore they called these days Pur-

im, after the name of Pur. ¶ Therefore because of all the words of this letter, & of that which they had seen concerning this matter, & that which had come unto them, the Jews ordained, and took upon them, and upon their seed, and upon all such as joined themselves unto them, so as it should not fail, ¶ that they would keep these two days according to the writing thereof, and according to the appointed time thereof, every year; & that these days should be remembered & kept throughout every generation, ¶ every family, every province, & every city; & that these days of Purim should not fail from among the Jews, nor the memorial of them perish from their seed. ¶ Then Esther the queen, the daughter of Abihail, & Mordecai the Jew, wrote with all authority to confirm this second letter of Purim. ¶ And he sent letters unto all the Jews, to the hundred twenty & seven

provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, with words of peace & truth, to confirm these days of Purim in their appointed times, according as Mordecai the Jew & Esther the queen had enjoined them, & as they had ordained for themselves and for their seed, in the matter of the fastings and their cry. ¶ And the commandment of Esther confirmed these matters of Purim; & it was written in the book. ¶ And the king Ahasuerus laid a tribute upon the land, and upon the isles of the sea. And all the acts of his power and of his might, & the full account of the greatness of Mordecai, ¶ whereunto the king advanced him, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia? ¶ For Mordecai the Jew was next unto king Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews, & accepted of the multitude of his brethren; seeking the good of his people, & speaking peace to all his seed.

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